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INDIANA RESIDENTS HAVE UNTIL NOVEMBER 24 TO REGISTER FOR DISASTER ASSISTANCE

INDIANAPOLIS – Monday, Nov. 24, is the deadline to register with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

To register, affected residents can go online at any time to www.fema.gov. Or they can call FEMA at

1-800-621-FEMA (3362), or at **TTY 1-800-462-7585** for those with speech or hearing impairments. Lines are open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. seven days a week until further notice.

FEMA Individual Assistance can include grants to help pay for temporary housing, home repairs and other serious disaster-related expenses such as medical care and damage to personal property. Residents in 20 Indiana counties have been made eligible for Individual Assistance programs related to the severe storms and flooding from Sept. 12 through Oct. 6. Those counties are Clark, Crawford, Dearborn, Floyd, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Jennings, Knox, Lake, LaPorte, Lawrence, Martin, Perry, Pike, Porter, Scott, Spencer, Switzerland and Washington.

In addition to FEMA assistance, low-interest disaster loans are available from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) for homeowners, renters, businesses and non-profit organizations.

Disaster loans can cover uncompensated losses for personal contents up to \$40,000 for both homeowners and renters, and up to \$200,000 for homeowners for physical damage to their primary residence. The SBA also provides low-interest loans up to \$2 million for uncompensated physical losses suffered by businesses and private non-profit organizations. Businesses may also be eligible for working-capital loans. The combination of the two business loans cannot exceed \$2 million.

Residents who receive an SBA disaster loan application in the mail after applying with FEMA should be sure to complete the application, even if they aren't sure they want a loan. Completing the SBA application is an important step in being considered for FEMA's Other Needs Assistance

program, which covers personal property, vehicle repair or replacement, and moving and storage expenses.

The first step toward receiving disaster assistance from FEMA or the SBA is to register with FEMA.

FEMA coordinates the federal government's role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror.

Individuals do not need to apply for an SBA loan before they can receive FEMA's temporary housing assistance, which includes rental assistance, home repair and replacement funds, as well as grants for public transportation expenses, medical and dental expenses, and funeral and burial expenses. However, an applicant must complete an SBA loan application to be eligible for FEMA assistance that covers personal property, vehicle repair or replacement, and moving and storage expenses.

Editors: For more information on Indiana disaster recovery, visit www.fema.gov or www.in.gov/dhs.

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